

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1862

To provide for grants to assist States and communities in developing a comprehensive approach to helping children 5 and under who have been exposed to domestic violence or a violent act in the home or community.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 20 (legislative day, DECEMBER 18), 2001

Mr. DURBIN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To provide for grants to assist States and communities in developing a comprehensive approach to helping children 5 and under who have been exposed to domestic violence or a violent act in the home or community.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Safe From the Start  
5       Act of 2001”.

1 **SEC. 2. YOUNG CHILDREN WHO WITNESS VIOLENCE.**

2 Title III of the Violence Against Women Act 2000  
3 (Division B, Public Law 106–386) is amended by adding  
4 at the end the following:

5 **“SEC. 1304. YOUNG CHILDREN WHO WITNESS VIOLENCE.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall  
7 award grants to eligible State entities that shall award  
8 grants to community coalitions throughout the State to  
9 design and implement a comprehensive and coordinated  
10 approach to identify, respond to, and serve young children  
11 who have been witnesses to or victims of violence.

12 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 “(1) ELIGIBLE STATE ENTITY.—The term ‘eli-  
14 gible State entity’ includes—

15 “(A) the State Attorney General’s office;

16 “(B) the Department of Public Health;

17 “(C) the Department of Children and  
18 Family Services;

19 “(D) any other State agency that has been  
20 designated as a State agency for violence pre-  
21 vention; or

22 “(E) a partnership between 2 or more  
23 agencies listed in subparagraphs (A) through  
24 (D).

25 “(2) EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE.—The term ‘ex-  
26 posed to violence’ includes—

1 “(A) witnessing, witnessing the immediate  
 2 aftermath of, or otherwise being directly af-  
 3 fected by an act of domestic violence, child  
 4 abuse, or a violent act in the child’s home;

5 “(B) witnessing, witnessing the immediate  
 6 aftermath of, or otherwise being directly af-  
 7 fected by, a violent act in the child’s neighbor-  
 8 hood; or

9 “(C) being in a home in which child abuse  
 10 or a violent act was committed against a sib-  
 11 ling.

12 “(3) YOUNG CHILDREN.—The term ‘young chil-  
 13 dren’ means children aged 5 years old and under.

14 “(c) STATE GRANTS.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—From funds appropriated  
 16 by subsection (f), the Attorney General shall award  
 17 grants to eligible State entities—

18 “(A) on a competitive basis;

19 “(B) in an amount equal to not less than  
 20 \$500,000; and

21 “(C) for a term of 3 years.

22 “(2) LIMITATION.—The Attorney General shall  
 23 award only 1 grant under this subsection to a State.

“(3) PRIORITY.—In awarding a grant under this subsection, the Attorney General shall give priority to an entity that—

“(A) submits a description of how the State grants will contribute to a comprehensive State approach to identifying and serving young children exposed to violence;

“(B) describes the technical assistance the entity will provide to community coalitions, including evaluation efforts; and

“(C) demonstrates a history of building partnerships and networks.

“(d) COMMUNITY COALITION GRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible State entity that receives a grant under subsection (c) for a fiscal year shall use the funds to award grants to community coalitions that, at a minimum (and where available), should include—

“(A) a Child Advocacy Center;

“(B) a domestic violence agency;

“(C) a sexual assault agency;

“(D) the local health department;

“(E) the local branch of the State department of children and family services; and

“(F) local law enforcement.

1           “(2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a  
2           grant from an eligible State entity, a community co-  
3           alition shall, to the greatest extent practicable—

4                   “(A) inventory the local resources available  
5                   to identify and respond to young children ex-  
6                   posed to violence;

7                   “(B) design a response system that uses  
8                   existing resources and community assets and  
9                   fills the gaps necessary to—

10                   “(i) ensure that young children ex-  
11                   posed to violence are identified, assessed,  
12                   and receive appropriate services;

13                   “(ii) provide case management serv-  
14                   ices for the children and their families; and

15                   “(iii) create specialized child care  
16                   services for children exposed to violence  
17                   through training of Head Start and child  
18                   care workers who can work with these chil-  
19                   dren under the supervision of an appro-  
20                   priate expert;

21                   “(C) incorporate a public awareness com-  
22                   ponent to educate the community and gain  
23                   input from residents about the coordination  
24                   project, the scope of the problem, and commu-  
25                   nity capacity to successfully address the needs

1 of the targeted population and their families;  
2 and

3 “(D) participate in technical assistance  
4 and evaluation efforts sponsored by the eligible  
5 State entity.

6 “(3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Each eligible  
7 State entity that receives a grant under this section  
8 may use not more than 15 percent of the allotted  
9 funds for a fiscal year for the costs of providing  
10 technical assistance and assistance in evaluation to  
11 community coalition grantees.

12 “(e) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Each eligible  
13 State entity that receives a grant under this section may  
14 not use more than 5 percent of the allotted funds for a  
15 fiscal year for the administrative costs of carrying out this  
16 section.

17 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
18 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
19 \$50,000,000 in each of fiscal years 2002, 2003, 2004,  
20 2005, and 2006.”.

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